

Memphis Animal Services Advisory Board Meeting
November 10, 2010

Meeting called to order: 10:10 am

Present:

Michelle Buckalew
Allen Iskiwitz
Cindy Sanders
Jackie Johns
Matthew Pepper - ex-officio

Minutes: Approval at next meeting

Old Business:

1. Credit card - We are currently going to piggyback on a credit card system the city uses.
2. Second Chance ACO status
3. Status of writing for roadside ordinance

Mr. Pepper - Opinion from City Attorney is that ordinance 5-15 is written using the wording "citation". TCA762 prohibits ACOs writing citations. Wording will be changed to "summons". This change will allow the Second Chance ACOs to write "summons".

"The word citations is not something that ACOs have the authority to do". "This particular ordinance talks about the issuance of citations rather than an ordinance summons. And according to the attorney's office that is the reason we cannot issue citations. The ordinance in general is being reviewed to remove this language". The opinion was given on October 8 after a prior meeting to discuss the problem.

Board request to Dr. LaSonya Hall - Please post agenda as it is sent to you from Board. Agendas have been altered, items left off and order of speakers rearranged by the Administration upon posting. Agenda will be given to Dr. Hall on the Friday before the meeting. Dr. Hall agreed to send a final copy of agenda for Board approval prior to posting on city site.

New Business:

Jackie Johns - S/N laws are now in effect. Public deserves to be correctly informed of the laws by shelter employees. Concern that OJI ACOs did not make court appearance on 2 cases. Is it possible for them to contact prosecutor and inform of OJI status.

\$2000 bond not

Mr. Pepper - We have two citations written already. Passed out staff instruction on law. Judge Sugarmon, City Prosecutor Teresa Jones and City Attorney instructed MAS not to enforce this law. I agree this should be enforced but what can MAS do when instructed not to enforce law.

Cindy Sanders - Concern that some ACOs are still not completing a full log day. Returning at 8:30pm when the shift ends at 11 pm.

Serious concern that ACOs are not enforcing the Tennessee Anti-Rabies Laws. Concern that MAS has not neutered ALL animals that were released intact in Feb. This is against city and state law.

Mr. Pepper - Officers may have been needed at shelter to dispatch. New policy started that ACOs must verify rabies vaccination. Now we make sure that all animals are neutered. Mr. Pepper will check on progress of intact animals.

Michelle Buckalew - Contacted by citizen about adopting dog. Recommended MAS. Stated staff was extremely rude. A good leader must write up staff for continued problems. Does Mr. Pepper have confidence in staff when he is away from shelter? Do you have a vision for shelter? Are you reaching out to teachers? Adoption venues?

Mr. Pepper - very high level of confidence. MAS conducting outreach to city schools. MAS is willing to consider any venue for adoption events.

Allen Iskiwitz - Is there a possibility to transport some animals up north? Explanation of process for transport. Problem with lack of replacement of Board members. Board is down 3 members. Citizens have applied with no response from Administration.

Motion: Cindy Sanders- Letter to Mayor Wharton regarding replacement of Board members.

Seconded - Jackie Johns

Matt Pepper - Conducted class on animal cruelty for police. Operations Manager position has been offered. Medical Director open.

One vacant care tech position. Secretary B open. Gave copies of new MAS policy books.

Meeting open to public:

Mario Chiozza - What is MAS policy regarding the adoption of pit bulls. He was informed by a MAS worker at an adoption event that MAS does not adopt pits. Pulled extensive paperwork regarding number of pits euthanized vs. other breeds. Higher percentage of pits killed. Requested MAS policy regarding pit adoptions. Was told there was no "set" policy. Adopters must go through yard and background checks.

Why is public not allowed in the stray area. This is not transparency.

Kathy Solomon, Kembree Dashini, Ann ?expressed same sentiments.

Matt Pepper - Come to shelter, I will give you a tour. There is no easy solution to pit bulls.

Meeting adjourned: 12:15